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ABSTRACT

Community colleges are publicly supported institutions offering comprehensive programs of career-related, remedial, and freshman and sophomore studies, along with community services. Technical institutes, on the other hand, primarily offer preparation for technological occupations, while junior colleges focus primarily on freshman and sophomore studies. Community colleges maintain low tuition and open admissions, offer many types of curricula, are responsive to the needs of the local community, provide programs for individuals of all ages and educational levels, and are adaptable to student differences and social change. In 1984, there were 1,219 community, junior, and technical colleges in the United States and its territories, of which 1,064 were public institutions. Two-year colleges offer vocational/occupational programs leading to an associate degree in applied science; transfer and liberal arts programs leading to an associate degree in science or the arts; community educational and personal interest courses; and remedial programs. Among all first-time, full-time freshmen in the United States in fall 1983, 40% were enrolled in two-year institutions. Two-year colleges enrolled 1.8 million full-time students in fall 1983. Among two-year college students, 53% were women, and the average age of students was between 28 and 31 years. There were a total of 251,606 faculty teaching at two-year colleges; of these, 57% were part-time instructors. In 1982-83, the average salary for assistant professors at public, two-year colleges was $20,761. In 1981-82, state funding accounted for 47.6% of public, two-year college operating expenses, while tuition accounted for another 16.2% of expenses. A list of two-year college organizations and publications, and 14 references are included. (PAA)

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ERIC Digest

Two-Year Colleges

Revised June, 1984

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What Are Two-Year Colleges?

*community colleges-publicly supported institutions offering comprehensive programs of career-related, remedial, and freshman and sophomore studies, along with community services.

*technical institutes-institutions offering primarily preparation for technological occupations.

*junior colleges--institutions offering primarily freshman and sophomore studies. The term "junior college" was originally used to refer to any two-year college. As a result, a college that offers a comprehensive curriculum adapted to its community may be named junior college although it has the characteristics of a community college.

What Are the Defining Characteristics of Community Colleges?

*democratic-low tuition, open admissions, and geographical and social accessibility

*comprehensive-offering many types of curricula for a wide range of students

*community-centered-locally responsive, offering programs for individuals of all ages and educational levels

*dedicated to life-long education-offering programs for individuals of all ages and educational levels

*adaptable-to student differences, community needs and social change

Where Are Two-Year Colleges Located? How Many Are in the U.S.?

*Institutions offering short-cycle, postsecondary education exist in many countries, including Canada, Norway, Australia, Japan, Yugoslavia, Kenya, Great Britain, the Republic of China, and Latin America.

*1,219 community, junior, and technical colleges are located in the U.S. and its territories.

What Programs Do These Institutions Offer?

Two-year colleges vary widely in their program offerings. Most offer one or more of the following programs:

*vocations/occupation programs leading to a certificate of an associate degree in applied science

*transfer/liberal arts programs designed for students who plan to obtain a baccalaureate degree; these programs lead to an associate degree in science or the arts

*community education and personal interest courses which did not award academic credit

*developmental/remedial programs designed to prepare students to enter degree or certificate programs by improving the communication and mathematical skills

Who Attends Two-Year Colleges in the U.S.?

*40% of the first-time, full-time freshman undergraduates in the U.S. whose goal is the bachelors degree, enrolled in community, junior, or technical college in Fall 1983.

*Two-year colleges enrolled 1.8 million full-time and over 3 million part-time students in credit courses in Fall 1983.

*Fall 1982 enrollment increased 3% over Fall 1981.

*The median age of community college students in between 18 and 22.

*The average age of community college students is between 28 and 31.

*Women make up to 53% of community college enrollments (1983).

*The percentage of minority group students who enroll in postsecondary institutions that are enrolled in community colleges is as follows: Blacks 43.5%; American Indians 55%; Asians/Pacific Islanders 45%; and Hispanics 55.5% (1988).

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*63% of the credit students enrolled in Fall 1983 attended part-time.

*In 1982, 19% of foreign students who attended college in the U.S. enrolled in two-year colleges.

What Are the Characteristics of the Faculty?

*251,606 faculty members teach in two-year institutions.

*About 57% of the faculty are part-time instructors.

*There are 18,228 administrators in community colleges; a 2% drop from the number of administrators in 1982.

*The average salary for assistant professors in public two-year colleges in 1982-83 was $20, 761; an increase of 7.4% over 1981-82.

*275 two-year colleges had collective bargaining agreements. Bargaining agents were recognized at 283 two-year colleges.

How Are Public Two-Year Colleges Financed?

*Property taxes, state appropriations, and tuition comprise most of the operating funds.

*State appropriations accounted for 47.6% of the operating revenue for public two-year colleges in 11981-82.

What Organizations Are Concerned with Two-Year Colleges?

American Association of Community and Junior Colleges
President: Dale Parnell
One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Association of Canadian Community Colleges
Executive Director: J.P. Robert LaRose
211 Consumers Road, Suite 203
Willowdale, Ontario
Canada M2J 4G8

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Director: Arthur M. Cohen
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Center for the Study of Community Colleges
Research Director: Florence B. Brawer
1047 Gayley Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024

League for Innovation in the Community College
Executive Director: Terry O' Banion
23276 South Pointe Drive
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Association of Community College Trustees
President: William Meardy
6928 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22030

Community College Humanities Association
President: Don Schmeltekopf
Union College
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

Community College Social Science Association
President: Mike Zalampas
Jefferson Community College
Louisville, KY 40202

Many other groups formed around circular areas and special interests are active in the two-year college field.

What Periodicals Focus on Two-Year Colleges?

Community College Review
P.O. Box 5504
Raleigh, NC 27650

Community and Junior College Journal
AACJC
One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

New Directions for Community Colleges
Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers
433 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Community/Junior College Research Quarterly
Hemisphere Publishing Corporation
1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Community Services Catalyst
College of Education
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Where Can I Obtain Additional Information?

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The statistics cited were gathered by the following: the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges; the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions; the National Center for Educational Statistics; the Chronicle of Higher Education; and the American Council on Education.

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